National Endowment for the Arts

2008
ANNUAL REPORT

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

Since its establishment, the NEA has awarded more than $4 billion in funding, including early support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition, the Sundance Film Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, PBS's *Great Performances* series, and the American Film Institute. For more than four decades, the Arts Endowment has encouraged creativity through support of performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other arts projects throughout the country.

The NEA awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations. In addition, it awards non-matching individual fellowships in literature and honorary fellowships in jazz, the folk and traditional arts, and opera. All applications to the Arts Endowment are reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit. Applications generally receive three levels of review. First, they are reviewed by independent, national panels of artists and other arts experts. Panels make recommendations that are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts.

The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's advisory body, comprises nationally and internationally renowned artists, distinguished scholars, and arts patrons appointed by the President, and members of Congress. The council reviews and makes recommendations on the applications. Those recommendations for funding are sent to the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The chairman reviews those applications and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

Students from Wilson High School in Washington, DC, perform a scene from *The Tempest* with the Shakespeare Theatre Company as part of the NEA's Shakespeare for a New Generation initiative.
Photo by Joe M. Cutler

Financial Summary

Summary of Funds Available	FY 2008
Appropriated Program Funds	119,604,600
Appropriated Balance, Prior Year [1]	4,660,199
Nonfederal Gifts [1]	2,177,185
Interagency Transfers [1, 2]	2,828,993
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE	129,270,977
TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT FUNDS AVAILABLE [1]	2,342,028
TOTAL SALARY AND EXPENSE FUNDS AVAILABLE [3, 4]	26,124,253
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	157,737,258

[1] Includes FY 2007 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2008, prior year deobligations carried forward into FY 2008, and funds newly available in FY 2008, as applicable.

[2] Includes interagency transfers held on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

[3] Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers including FY 2007 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2008, prior year deobligations brought forward into FY 2008, and funds newly available in FY 2008, as applicable.

[4] Includes nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers held on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, as applicable.

Summary of Funds Obligated [1] ($ in thousands)	FY 2008
ACCESS TO ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE	
Direct Endowment Grants	
Project Support [2]	40,743
Challenge America: Reaching Every Community	9,519
American Masterpieces	13,591
Total Access to Artistic Excellence	63,853
LEARNING IN THE ARTS	
Direct Endowment Grants	
Project Support	11,010
Partnerships for the Arts	1,700
American Masterpieces	500
Total Learning in the Arts	13,210
PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ARTS	
State Partnerships	
State & Regional	39,415
Underserved	8,481
Subtotal State Partnerships	47,896
Direct Endowment Grants	517
Total Partnerships for the Arts	48,413
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDS OBLIGATED	125,476
TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT OBLIGATED	1,738
TOTAL SALARIES & EXPENSES OBLIGATED [3]	24,307
TOTAL FUNDS OBLIGATED	151,521

[1] Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers.

[2] Includes $1,090K for Save America's Treasures.

[3] Includes funds from nonfederal gifts obligated on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities of which $105K was obligated in support of grants and cooperative agreements.

National Council on the Arts *(as of April 15, 2009)*

Patrice Walker Powell
Acting Chairman

James Ballinger
Museum Director
Phoenix, AZ

Miguel Campaneria
Dance School Director
Hartford, CT

Ben Donenberg
Theater Producer/Director/
Arts Educator
Los Angeles, CA

JoAnn Falletta
Music Director
Buffalo, NY & Norfolk, VA

Lee Greenwood
Country Music Singer/
Songwriter
Nashville, TN

Joan Israelite
Retired Local Arts
Agency Executive
Kansas City, MO

Charlotte Kessler
Patron/Trustee
Columbus, OH

Bret Lott
Author/Editor
Charleston, SC

Jerry Pinkney
Artist/Illustrator
Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Stephen Porter
Patron/Attorney
Washington, DC

Barbara Ernst Prey
Visual Artist
Oyster Bay, NY

Frank Price
Film Industry Executive
New York, NY

Terry Teachout
Critic/Author
New York, NY

Karen Wolff
Retired Music Educator
Ann Arbor, MI

Ex-Officio Members, United States Congress

Senate
Robert Bennett (R-UT)
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

Appointment by Majority and Minority leadership of the remaining Members of Congress to the Council is pending.

Lifetime Honors

NEA Jazz Masters

(awarded October 17, 2008, at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City)

George Benson
Guitarist/Vocalist

Jimmy Cobb
Drummer/Educator

Lee Konitz
Saxophonist/Composer/Educator

Jean Baptiste "Toots" Thielemans
Harmonica Player/Guitarist

Rudy Van Gelder
Recording Engineer

Eugene Edward "Snooky" Young
Trumpeter

NEA Opera Honors

(awarded October 31, 2008, at the Sidney Harman Hall of the Harman Center for the Arts, Washington, DC)

Carlisle Floyd
Composer

Richard Gaddes
Administrator/General
Director of the Santa Fe
Opera/Co-founder of Opera
Theatre of Saint Louis

James Levine
Music Director of the
Metropolitan Opera and
the Boston Symphony
Orchestra

Leontyne Price
Soprano

NEA National Heritage Fellowships

(awarded September 19, 2008, at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, MD)

Horace P. Axtell
Nez Perce Drum Maker/
Singer/Tradition-bearer

Dale Harwood
Saddlemaker

Bettye Kimbrell
Quilter

Jeronimo E. Lozano
Peruvian *Retablo*
(portable altar boxes) Maker

Oneida Hymn Singers of Wisconsin
Oneida Hymn Singers

Sue Yeon Park
Korean Dancer and Musician

Moges Seyoum
Ethiopian Liturgical
Musician/Scholar

Jelon Vieira
Capoeira (Afro-Brazilian
art form) Master

Dr. Michael White
Traditional Jazz Musician/
Bandleader

Mac Wiseman
Bluegrass Musician

Year In Review

In fiscal year (FY) 2008, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) received its largest increase in appropriations—$20 million—in nearly 30 years, putting the budget at $144,706,800, of which approximately $125.5 million was distributed in program funds.

Receiving roughly 5,000 applications, the NEA awarded more than 2,200 grants in FY 2008 in every community in the United States, reaching many underserved areas of the country. This includes 40 percent of the Arts Endowment's funding that was distributed to 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and the six regional arts organizations (RAOs) through Partnership Agreements. SAAs and RAOs used their funding to further NEA goals, including supporting arts education projects, Challenge America goals of providing more accessibility to the arts, and Poetry Out Loud state competitions.

Approximately 70 million citizens—including 6.5 million children and youth—benefited from NEA-funded activities, exclusive of television and radio broadcasts that reached millions more. These activities included some 30,000 concerts, readings, and performances; 4,000 exhibitions; and 9,000 artist residencies in schools and other locations.

In FY 2008, the NEA announced several new programs and activities. One of these was the first new lifetime honors award since 1982: the NEA Opera Honors. This award was presented for the first time in October 2008 to four individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to opera in the United States. The NEA also initiated the NEA New Play Development Program to help the nation's nonprofit theaters bring more new plays to full production. Administered by DC-based Arena Stage, the new program will support the development of seven new plays at theaters from across the country annually. The Arts Endowment, in partnership with the Joint Committee on the Library and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, administered the design competition for a statue of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks to be permanently installed in National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building. This is the first commission of a full-sized statue authorized and funded by the U.S. Congress since the 1870s.

In addition, a major change was made to the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities that is administered by the NEA. The program, created by Congress in 1975 to facilitate only international exhibitions, was expanded to include a domestic component that defrays insurance costs when American museums loan works to one another.

There were some changes in national initiatives as well. American Masterpieces, which acquaints U.S. communities with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy through performances, exhibitions, tours, and educational program, expanded into two new disciplines, awarding grants in chamber music and presenting. The Big Read literary reading initiative began a new component, American Literary Landmarks, which celebrates the nation's poets and historic poetry sites in partnership with the Poetry Foundation. The poets in this new component include Robinson Jeffers, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Emily Dickinson.

Internationally, the Arts Endowment, as part of the U.S. Department of State's Global Cultural Initiative, funded poetry anthologies of Irish and Russian poets translated into English as part of the NEA's International Literary Exchanges program. In addition, the NEA continued the international Big Read activities started in 2007 with Russia, initiating new literary cultural exchanges with Egypt and Mexico in 2008.

The NEA continued its leadership in providing pertinent research reports on the arts, including *Artists in the Workforce: 1990-2005*, the first nationwide look at artists' demographic and employment patterns in the 21st century, and *All America's a Stage*, which examined developments in the growth, distribution, and finances of America's nonprofit theater system since 1990.

Through all the activities and programs supported in 2008, the NEA has not only maintained its mission of making the arts and arts education accessible to all Americans, but has demonstrated the importance of art in communities across the nation.

A full list of FY 2008 grants and panelists can be found on the NEA website at www.arts.gov.

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Not for sale–Available for free at www.arts.gov

Cover photo: 2008 NEA National Heritage Fellow Horace P. Axtell performs with Dr. Michael White—also a 2008 Fellow—and his band during the finale of the awards ceremony and concert at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland.
Photo by Michael G. Stewart